

Israel's commitment to freedom is evidenced by the fact that over 20 percent of its citizens are Arab, but freedom of worship and freedom of speech is granted to all.

Congratulations to Israel and all Israelis on the first 60 years of the modern era. May Israelis enjoy at least another 600.

MAKE THE R&D TAX CREDIT PERMANENT

(Mr. SALI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the subject of the R&D tax credit which lapsed on December 31 of last year.

One of this country's greatest strengths has been its ability to innovate, to create and develop new ideas. The lack of a competitive R&D tax credit here at home is driving American businesses to invest in R&D abroad.

In the last 5 years alone, over 100 global companies have established R&D centers in India due to the long-term benefits provided by that government. With benefits such as a 15-year phased income tax holiday, deductions for in-house R&D equal to 1½ times the expenses incurred, coupled with accelerated tax deductions on prior period expenses, it is easy to see why companies are choosing to invest in India over the U.S., especially now that we have allowed our R&D tax credit to expire.

The R&D tax credit should be renewed and made permanent as soon as possible, to create jobs in America and ensure we will always be on the cutting edge of innovation.

GAS PRICES

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, gas prices are now over \$4 a gallon and may be headed higher. Almost all environmental radicals come from very wealthy or very upper income families. Environmentalists apparently want gas to go even higher so people will drive less.

Well, maybe these wealthy environmentalists can afford \$5 a gallon gas, but many poor and lower income and working people are already hurting. Week before last we heard that 935 trucking companies have gone out of business in the first quarter of this year.

We can produce oil now in environmentally safe ways, and we don't have to produce all of our oil. But if we don't start producing a little more, and soon, we're going to become even more vulnerable to foreign oil producers, and we're going to hurt many working people in the process.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

JIMMY STEWART—ACTOR—U.S. GENERAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, he was born in Indiana, Pennsylvania, on May 20, 1908.

Jimmy became a Boy Scout and remained active in the organization throughout his adulthood.

Of course, I'm talking about Jimmy Stewart. He made more than 80 films, including comedies, Westerns and dramas.

Jimmy Stewart won an Academy Award for best performance by an actor in 1940 for his performance in "The Philadelphia Story." He also received four other Oscar nominations for his performances in "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," a movie which by the way all Members of Congress should be required to watch, and my personal favorite, "It's a Wonderful Life." He also appeared in "Anatomy of a Murder."

Jimmy Stewart was voted the third greatest movie star of all time by Entertainment Weekly. Jimmy Stewart appeared in a number of television shows and Broadway plays and received a Tony award.

Although Jimmy Stewart would have preferred to attend the Naval Academy, Stewart entered his father's alma mater, Princeton University, in the fall of 1928. He initially considered engineering, but he finally settled on architecture as his course of study, at which he excelled. He graduated from Princeton in 1932.

While he was building his reputation as an actor, the rest of the world was about to go to war. Germany occupied numerous countries in the early part of 1940, and it led Congress to be concerned. And on September 16, 1940, this Congress passed the Selective Service Bill, which we now refer to as "The Draft."

Stewart's draft number was 310, and when his number was called, he appeared at Draft Board No. 245 in Los Angeles in February of 1941.

A 6-foot-3 Stewart weighed only 138 pounds. He was 5 pounds under the acceptable weight limit. He was turned down, but Stewart wanted to fly and serve his country, but by May of 1941 he would have been too old to get into flight school. He went home after that day of being rejected by the draft, and he ate everything he could that fattened him up. He went back and he enlisted in the Army Air Corps, and he passed the physical with 2 ounces to spare.

While others tried to avoid the draft, Jimmy Stewart actually wanted to serve in the military. Later, he would actually campaign to see combat. He was already a licensed pilot. He was interested in aviation as a child. He had taken his first flight while still in Indiana from one of those barnstorming pilots that used to travel throughout the Midwest.

He was a successful actor in 1935, and so he was able to afford flying lessons. He often flew cross-country to visit his parents in Pennsylvania, and he navigated by watching the railroad tracks.

In the military, he was to make extensive use of his pilot training. In March 1941, at the age of 32, he reported for duty as Private James Stewart at Fort MacArthur and was assigned to the Army Air Corps. To comply with the regulations of the Army Air Corps Proficiency Board, he was required to take 100 additional flying hours, and he did so and bought them at a nearby field at his own expense.

Then, in January 1942, Stewart was commissioned a second lieutenant. He was then sent to California at Mather Field as a twin engine instructor which included both B-17s and B-24s. Much to his dismay, Stewart stayed stateside for almost 2 years, until his commanding officers finally yielded to his constant request to be sent overseas and to see combat.

So, in November of 1943, Captain Stewart, now a captain and operations officer for the 703rd Squadron, 445th Bombardment Group, of the Eight Air Force, he arrived in England. Later, he was transferred to the 453rd Bombardment Group.

While stateside, Stewart flew B-17s, commonly called the Flying Fortress, and in England and over Europe he flew B-24s, referred to by historians as The Liberator, and he did so for the remaining years of the war.

Stewart's war record included 20 dangerous combat missions as command pilot, wing commander or even squadron commander. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters; the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters; the French Croix de Guerre with Palm; and at the end of the war, he had risen to the rank of colonel.

After the war, he remained in the United States Air Force Reserves and was promoted to brigadier general in 1959. Mr. Speaker, he remains the highest ranking officer in U.S. military history that was also a Hollywood actor.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan awarded Jimmy Stewart the Nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Jimmy Stewart believed in hard work, love of country, love of family, love of community, and love of God. Jimmy Stewart passed away on July 2, 1997, at the age of 89. Jimmy Stewart would be 100 years old today, and America still needs heroes, and Jimmy Stewart still continues to fit that bill.

And that's just the way it is.